IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A process for preparing [[a]] an aqueous polyurethane dispersion, ~~which comprises,~~ comprising:

~~prior to dispersing,~~ preparing ~~the~~ a polyurethane in the presence of N-ethylpyrrolidone or N-cyclohexylpyrrolidone; and

dispersing the prepared polyurethane in an aqueous medium,

wherein

the polyurethane comprises at least one component having at least one hydrophilic group or a group which can be converted to a hydrophilic group, and is dispersible in water.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The process according to claim 15, ~~comprising the steps of~~

[[I.]]wherein the preparing a polyurethane in the presence of N-ethylpyrrolidone or N-cyclohexylpyrrolidone ~~by~~ comprises reacting

a) at least one polyfunctional isocyanate having 4 to 30 carbon atoms,

b) diols ~~of which~~ comprising

b1) 10 to 100 mol%, based on the total amount of diols (b), ~~have~~ having a molecular weight of from 500 to 5000 and

b2) 0 to 90 mol%, based on the total amount of diols (b), ~~have~~ having a molecular weight of from 60 to 500 g/mol,

c) optionally additional polyfunctional compounds, other than the diols (b), containing reactive groups which are alcoholic hydroxyl groups or primary or secondary amino groups and

d) monomers other than the monomers a), b) and c), containing at least one isocyanate group or at least one isocyanato-reactive group, additionally carrying at least one hydrophilic group or ~~one potentially hydrophilic group~~ a group which can be converted to a hydrophilic group~~,~~ ~~whereby the polyurethane is rendered dispersible in water,~~

~~to form a polyurethane and~~

~~II. subsequently dispersing the polyurethane in water~~

~~III. with the optional addition of polyamines after or during step II.~~

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The process according to claim 16, wherein component d) is at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The process according to claim 17, wherein ~~component d) is~~ the at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid is a dihydroxyalkylcarboxylic acid.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The process according to claim 17, wherein ~~component d) is~~ the at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid is an α,α-bis(hydroxymethyl)-carboxylic acid.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The process according to claim 17, wherein ~~component d)~~ the at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of dimethylolbutyric acid ~~and/or~~ and dimethylolpropionic acid.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The process according to claim [[17]] 20, wherein ~~component d)~~ the at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid is dimethylolpropionic acid.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): The process according to claim [[15]] 16, wherein the hydrophilic group of components d) comprises ~~both~~ nonionic ~~hydrophilic~~ and ionic ~~hydrophilic~~ groups.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The process according to claim 15, wherein the polyurethane is prepared in the presence of at least one cesium salt.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): A method ~~of using a polyurethane dispersion prepared according to claim 15~~ for coating or adhesively bonding a material, comprising

applying the aqueous polyurethane dispersion prepared according to Claim 15 to the material,

wherein the material is at least one selected from the group consisting of wood, wood veneer, paper, paperboard, cardboard, textile, leather, nonwoven, plastics surfaces, glass, ceramic, mineral building materials, uncoated metals ~~or~~ and coated metals.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): A method for preparing an aqueous dispersion of a water dispersible polyurethane comprising ~~of using~~ adding N-ethylpyrrolidone or N-cyclohexylpyrrolidone ~~in preparing~~ to a reaction mixture for forming the water dispersible polyurethanes.